
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND PERTINENT STATE AGENCIES TO COMMIT TO
PROVIDE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND
PROGRAMS FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES
EXPERIENCING INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the State has committed to improving the quality
2 of life of individuals with intellectual and developmental
3 disabilities, necessitating the provision of relief to families
4 and care providers; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State continues to identify the needs of
7 individuals, families, and care providers with intellectual and
8 developmental disabilities, evidencing the ongoing need for
9 continued support; and

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11 WHEREAS, intellectual and developmental disabilities are
12 often lifelong disabilities that may involve challenges that
13 affect intellectual functioning and adaptive functioning, or a
14 person's ability to learn, reason, communicate, socialize, or
15 perform self-care tasks; and

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17 WHEREAS, developmental disabilities, which include
18 intellectual disabilities, are a broad group of conditions that
19 may involve an impairment in physical, learning, cognitive,
20 language and communication, or behavior areas; and

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22 WHEREAS, the term "intellectual and developmental
23 disabilities" was established and is continuously used to be
24 encompassing and far-reaching in its inclusivity, expressing the
25 community's diversity and recognizing individuals' unique
26 strengths, challenges, needs, and experiences; and

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28 WHEREAS, the true extent of the cognitive abilities of
29 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is



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1 not accurately reflected by measures of intelligence, as there
2 are seemingly infinite ways that individuals learn or express
3 themselves; and

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5 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental
6 disabilities are unique in their own right and the notion of a
7 one-size-fits-all approach is insufficient to fully appreciate
8 and provide appropriate support for their inherent uniqueness;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, this body acknowledges the intrinsic individuality
12 of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and
13 understands the importance of developing and providing
14 culturally appropriate services, programs, and resources that
15 not only uphold their dignity and active inclusion as valued
16 members of the community, but also nurture their potential and
17 safeguard their well-being; and

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19 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental
20 disabilities have an inherent right to immerse themselves in
21 their cultural identities, necessitating the provision of
22 culturally appropriate and culturally sensitive services,
23 programs, and resources as essential to the adequacy of support
24 and inclusivity; and

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26 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental
27 disabilities, their families, and their care providers require
28 equitable resources and support, commensurate with their socio-
29 economic standing, to endure in their everyday lives; and

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31 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon society to protect and
32 provide for the most vulnerable communities in ensuring that all
33 people have equitable opportunities and access to thrive; and

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35 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians are overrepresented among
36 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,
37 while also facing disproportionate underdiagnosis, indicating
38 systemic disparities and increased vulnerabilities; and

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40 WHEREAS, traditional Native Hawaiian family-based and
41 communal structures established systems of effective care for



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1 individuals of all ages, including the most vulnerable members
2 of society; and

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4 WHEREAS, these traditional family-based and communal
5 structures were dismantled and are furthered by unresolved
6 historical injustice; now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
10 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Governor and
11 other pertinent state agencies are urged to commit to providing
12 culturally appropriate resources, services, and programs for
13 Native Hawaiian individuals with intellectual and developmental
14 disabilities and their families; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
18 of Health, Superintendent of Education, Director of Human
19 Services, President of the University of Hawaii System,
20 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian
21 Affairs, and Chairperson of the State Council on Developmental
22 Disabilities.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 04 2024

